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Bibliography
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A61F 5/44
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- (71) [Applicant]

[Identification Number] 000115108

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[Identification Number] 100098143

[Patent Attorney]

[Name] Iizuka Male 2

[Theme code (reference)]

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4C003

4C098

4L047

[F term (reference)]

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4C003 AA09 AA27

4C098 AA09 CC03 DD10 DD23 DD27

4L047 AA08 AA12 AA14 AA17 AA21 AA23 AA27 AA28 AA29 BA09 CB07 CB10 CC04 CC05

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Epitome

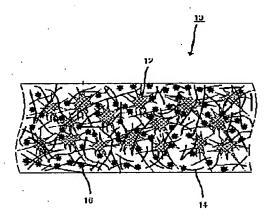
(57) [Abstract]

[Technical problem] Offer the absorber for absorptivity articles which was excellent in absorptivity ability with the improvement in compression stability, and was excellent in gestalt stability.

[Means for Solution] An absorber for absorptivity articles of this invention is equipped with a nonwoven fabric piece which was made to combine between fiber beforehand and gave the three-dimensional structure, and fiber of, hydrophilicity

including heat welding fiber. And it is fabricated by mixing said nonwoven fabric piece and fiber of said hydrophilicity.

[Translation done.]



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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] An absorber for absorptivity articles characterized by being fabricated by having a nonwoven fabric piece which was made to combine between fiber beforehand and gave the three-dimensional structure, and fiber of, hydrophilicity including heat welding fiber, and mixing said nonwoven fabric piece and fiber of said hydrophilicity.

[Claim 2] An absorber for absorptivity articles according to claim 1 characterized by carrying out heat weld of said nonwoven fabric pieces after mixing said nonwoven fabric piece and fiber of said hydrophilicity.

[Claim 3] An absorber for absorptivity articles according to claim 1 or 2

characterized by said nonwoven fabric piece consisting of heat welding nature fiber. [Claim 4] An absorber for absorptivity articles according to claim 1, 2, or 3 characterized by fiber of said hydrophilicity being high absorptivity fiber of water absorption nature.

[Claim 5] An absorber for absorptivity articles according to claim 1, 2, 3, or 4 characterized by mixed weight ratios of the; aforementioned nonwoven fabric piece and fiber of said hydrophilicity being 2:8-8:2, including further 5 - 95% of the weight of a superabsorbency polymer particle.

[Claim 6] An absorber for absorptivity articles according to claim 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 with which an average size of said nonwoven fabric piece is characterized by being 3-25mm.

[Claim 7] An absorber for absorptivity articles according to claim 6 with which said average size is characterized by being 5-15mm.

[Claim 8] A liquid permeability surface sheet and a rear—face sheet of; non-liquid permeability; it is the absorptivity article which is an absorptivity article equipped with an absorber arranged between said surface sheets and rear—face sheets, and is characterized by to fabricate said absorber by having a nonwoven fabric piece which was made to combine between fiber beforehand and gave the three—dimensional structure including heat welding fiber, and fiber of, hydrophilicity, and mixing the; aforementioned nonwoven fabric piece and fiber of said hydrophilicity.

[Claim 9] An absorptivity article according to claim 8 characterized by carrying out heat weld of said nonwoven fabric pieces after mixing said nonwoven fabric piece and fiber of said hydrophilicity.

[Claim 10] An absorptivity article according to claim 8 or 9 characterized by said nonwoven fabric piece consisting of heat welding nature fiber.

[Claim 11] An absorptivity article according to claim 8, 9, or 10 characterized by fiber of said hydrophilicity being high absorptivity fiber of water absorption nature. [Claim 12] An absorptivity article according to claim 8, 9, 10, or 11 with which said absorber is characterized by mixed weight ratios of the; aforementioned nonwoven fabric piece and fiber of said hydrophilicity being 2:8-8:2, including further 5 - 95% of the weight of a superabsorbency polymer particle.

[Claim 13] An absorptivity article according to claim 8, 9, 10, 11, or 12 with which an average size of said nonwoven fabric piece is characterized by being 3-25mm.

[Claim 14] An absorptivity article according to claim 13 with which said average size is characterized by being 5-15mm.

[Claim 15] A process which grinds a process and the; aforementioned nonwoven fabric which fabricate a nonwoven fabric which has the three-dimensional structure which combined fiber beforehand, and fabricates a nonwoven fabric piece; a manufacture method of an absorber for absorptivity articles characterized by including a process which carries out fused junction of said nonwoven fabric pieces by process which mixes said nonwoven fabric piece with hydrophilic fiber, and; heat welding.

[Claim 16] A method according to claim 15 that said absorber is characterized by setting a mixed weight ratio of the; aforementioned nonwoven fabric piece and fiber of said hydrophilicity to 2:8-8:2, including further 5 - 95% of the weight of a superabsorbency polymer particle.

[Claim 17] A method according to claim 15 or 16 that an average size of said nonwoven fabric piece is characterized by being referred to as 3-25mm.
[Claim 18] A method according to claim 17 that said average size is characterized by being 5-15mm.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention] [0001]

[The technical field to which invention belongs] This invention relates to absorptivity articles, such as a pad for a disposable diaper and diapers, a sanitary napkin, and a pet sheet. Furthermore, it is related with the absorber used for the abovementioned absorptivity article, and its manufacture method in detail.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] Usually, an absorptivity article consists of a surface sheet of liquid permeability, a rear—face sheet of liquid impermeability, and an absorber that intervenes among both sheets. An absorber consists of absorptivity fiber, such as pulp, and grain—like absorptivity polymer in many cases. In the absorber used for an absorptivity article, improvement in the gestalt stability which reaches on ** of the compression stability (absorptivity) of an absorber is a big technical problem.

[0003] In JP,2-74254,A, the absorber using 10 - 70% of the weight of a thermofusion crimped staple, 10 - 70% of the weight of curdy pulp, and 5 - 50% of the weight of an absorptivity polymer particle is shown. In this absorber, the stability (absorptivity) of an absorber and gestalt stability are raised by carrying out welding of the

thermofusion crimped staple of each other, and forming three-dimensional network structure.

[0004]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] However, in invention indicated by JP,2-74254,A, since the density of the three-dimensions frame formed by heat welding fiber, curdy pulp, and the absorptivity polymer particle was high, when an absorptivity polymer particle absorbed body fluid, it had become the factor which checks the fundamental operation in the absorber that a polymer particle swells. That is, inadequate compression stability may have caused lowering of absorptivity ability.

[0005] Moreover, since heat welding crimped staples were welded with heat after mixing a heat welding crimped staple, curdy pulp, and an absorptivity polymer particle, the curdy pulp and the absorptivity polymer particle which are non-heat welding fiber caused inhibition. namely, the condition of having mixed the curdy pulp and the absorptivity polymer particle which are non-heat welding fiber — heat welding crimped staples — welding — for — big quantity of heat — being needed. When processing temperature is set up highly simply, only the front face of an absorber can be welded and it cannot be made to weld in an absorber here, in order to raise working speed. Consequently, when moisture is absorbed, a form collapses as an absorptivity article, and sufficient gestalt stability cannot be given. On the other hand, when a heating rate is made late, fully heating to the interior has the problem that productivity falls remarkably, while it is difficult.

[0006] It sets it as the 1st object to offer the absorber for absorptivity articles which accomplished this invention in view of the above conditions, and was excellent in absorptivity ability with the improvement in compression stability, and was excellent in gestalt stability.

[0007] Moreover, it sets it as the 2nd object to offer the absorptivity article excellent in absorptivity ability and gestalt stability.

[0008] Furthermore, it sets it as the 3rd object to offer the method of manufacturing for the absorber for absorptivity articles excellent in absorptivity ability and gestalt stability easily.

[0009]

[Means for Solving the Problem] In order to attain the above-mentioned object, an absorber for absorptivity articles according to claim 1 which is the 1st mode of this invention is equipped with a nonwoven fabric piece which was made to combine between fiber beforehand and gave the three-dimensional structure, and fiber of; hydrophilicity including heat welding fiber. And it is fabricated by mixing said nonwoven fabric piece and fiber of said hydrophilicity. In the above absorbers according to claim 1, since a nonwoven fabric piece has the three-dimensional structure beforehand, an opening is formed in the interior of an absorber, and stability when absorbing moisture improves, consequently absorptivity ability improves.

[0010] In invention according to claim 2, after mixing said nonwoven fabric piece and fiber of said hydrophilicity, heat weld of said nonwoven fabric pieces is carried out. Since a nonwoven fabric piece already has the three-dimensional structure, it can perform welding of nonwoven fabric pieces by small quantity of heat compared with the former, and its productivity improves. Moreover, before welding of nonwoven fabric pieces, since each nonwoven fabric piece already has the three-dimensional structure, welding of the nonwoven fabric pieces can be carried out certainly, and the gestalt stability of the absorber itself improves. That is, also when moisture is absorbed, the interior does not become scattering but becomes possible [maintaining the original configuration].

[0011] In invention according to claim 3, said nonwoven fabric piece consists of heat welding nature fiber. Thereby, it becomes possible to combine nonwoven fabric pieces still more easily.

[0012] In invention according to claim 4, high absorptivity fiber of water absorption nature is used as fiber of said hydrophilicity. Thereby, absorptivity ability of the absorber itself improves further.

[0013] An absorber concerning invention according to claim 5 contains further 5 – 95% of the weight of a superabsorbency polymer particle. And a mixed weight ratio of said nonwoven fabric piece and fiber of said hydrophilicity is set to 2:8–8:2. By blending superabsorbency polymer, absorptivity ability as an absorber improves further. Moreover, the good absorptivity of balance can be acquired by setting a mixed weight ratio of said nonwoven fabric piece and fiber of said hydrophilicity to 2:8–8:2. That is, when a rate of a compounding ratio of a fiber nonwoven fabric piece and hydrophilic fiber is 2:8 or less, compression stability may fall and absorptivity ability may fall. Moreover, when a rate of a compounding ratio is 8:2 or more, since there is little hydrophilic fiber, absorptivity may fall.

[0014] An absorber concerning invention according to claim 6 sets an average size of said nonwoven fabric piece to 3-25mm. Furthermore, it may be 5-15mm preferably. Thereby, the smooth nature of a product can be maintained and it becomes possible to prevent plugging of a production line.

[0015] an absorptivity article according to claim 8 which is the 2nd mode of this invention — a liquid permeability surface sheet, a rear—face sheet of, non-liquid permeability, and; — it is the absorptivity article equipped with an absorber arranged between said surface sheets and rear—face sheets. And what was fabricated by having a nonwoven fabric piece which was made to combine between fiber beforehand as said absorber including heat welding fiber, and gave the three—dimensional structure, and fiber of, hydrophilicity, and mixing the; aforementioned nonwoven fabric piece and fiber of said hydrophilicity is used. In the above absorptivity articles according to claim 8, since a nonwoven fabric piece contained in an absorber has the three—dimensional structure beforehand, an opening is formed in the interior of an absorber, and stability when absorbing moisture improves, consequently absorptivity ability as an absorptivity article improves.

[0016] In invention according to claim 9, after mixing said nonwoven fabric piece and fiber of said hydrophilicity, heat weld of said nonwoven fabric pieces is carried out. Since a nonwoven fabric piece already has the three-dimensional structure, it can perform welding of nonwoven fabric pieces by small quantity of heat compared with the former, and its productivity improves. Moreover, in front of welding of nonwoven fabric pieces, since each nonwoven fabric piece already has the three-dimensional structure, welding of the nonwoven fabric pieces can be carried out certainly, and the gestalt stability of an absorptivity article having an absorber improves. That is, it becomes possible to maintain the original configuration, without the interior's becoming scattering or fracturing, also when moisture is absorbed.

[0017] In invention according to claim 10, a nonwoven fabric piece consists of heat welding nature fiber. Thereby, it becomes possible to combine nonwoven fabric pieces still more easily.

[0018] In invention according to claim 11, high absorptivity fiber of water absorption nature is used as fiber of said hydrophilicity. Thereby, absorptivity ability of an absorptivity article improves further.

[0019] An absorber concerning invention according to claim 12 contains further 5 – 95% of the weight of a superabsorbency polymer particle. And a mixed weight ratio of said nonwoven fabric piece and fiber of said hydrophilicity is set to 2:8–8:2. By blending superabsorbency polymer, absorptivity ability improves further. Moreover, the good absorptivity of balance can be acquired by setting a mixed weight ratio of said nonwoven fabric piece and fiber of said hydrophilicity to 2:8–8:2. That is, when a rate of a compounding ratio of a fiber nonwoven fabric piece and hydrophilic fiber is 2:8 or less, compression stability may fall and absorptivity ability may fall. Moreover, when a rate of a compounding ratio is 8:2 or more, since there is little hydrophilic fiber, absorptivity may fall.

[0020] An absorber concerning invention according to claim 13 sets an average size of said nonwoven fabric piece to 3–25mm. Furthermore, it may be 5–15mm preferably. Thereby, the smooth nature of a product can be maintained and it becomes possible to prevent plugging of a production line.

[0021] In a manufacture method of an absorber for absorptivity articles according to claim 15 which is the 3rd mode of this invention, a nonwoven fabric which has the three-dimensional structure which combined fiber beforehand is fabricated, the; aforementioned nonwoven fabric is ground, a nonwoven fabric piece is fabricated, the; aforementioned nonwoven fabric piece is mixed with hydrophilic fiber, and fused junction of said nonwoven fabric pieces is carried out by heat welding after that [;]. In the above absorbers according to claim 15, since heat weld of the nonwoven fabric pieces is carried out after preparing a nonwoven fabric piece which has the three-dimensional structure beforehand and mixing nonwoven fabric piece concerned and fiber of hydrophilicity, compared with the former, welding of nonwoven fabric pieces can be performed by small quantity of heat, and productivity improves. Moreover, in a phase before performing welding of nonwoven fabric pieces.

since each nonwoven fabric piece already has the three-dimensional structure, it can carry out welding of the nonwoven fabric pieces certainly, and its gestalt stability of the absorber itself improves.

[0022] In a method concerning invention according to claim 16, said absorber is setting a mixed weight ratio of the; aforementioned nonwoven fabric piece and fiber of said hydrophilicity to 2:8–8:2, including further 5 – 95% of the weight of a superabsorbency polymer particle. By blending superabsorbency polymer, absorptivity ability improves further. Moreover, the good absorptivity of balance can be acquired by setting a mixed weight ratio of said nonwoven fabric piece and fiber of said hydrophilicity to 2:8–8:2. That is, when a rate of a compounding ratio of a fiber nonwoven fabric piece and hydrophilic fiber is 2:8 or less, compression stability may fall and absorptivity ability may fall. Moreover, when a rate of a compounding ratio is 8:2 or more, since there is little hydrophilic fiber, absorptivity may fall. [0023] An absorber concerning invention according to claim 17 sets an average size of said nonwoven fabric piece to 3–25mm. Furthermore, it may be 5–15mm preferably. Thereby, the smooth nature of a product can be maintained and it becomes possible to prevent plugging of a production line. [0024]

[Embodiment of the Invention] Hereafter, the gestalt of operation of this invention is explained using an example. In addition, the absorber concerning this invention is applicable to various absorptivity articles, such as a pad for a disposable diaper and diapers, a sanitary napkin, and a pet sheet.

[0025] Drawing 1 shows the structure of the absorber 10 for absorptivity articles concerning the example of this invention. The absorber 10 is fabricated by the nonwoven fabric piece 12 which has the three-dimension (solid) structure where between fiber was combined beforehand, hydrophilic fiber 14, and SAP (absorptivity polymer)16 in the shape of a sheet. The nonwoven fabric piece 12 mainly contributes to the improvement in gestalt stability of an absorber 10. Moreover, hydrophilic fiber 14 and SAP16 mainly contribute to the improvement in absorptivity ability of a liquid. Here, the nonwoven fabric piece 12 of the three-dimensional structure is obtained by grinding a nonwoven fabric in the shape of a split. [0026] It is desirable to use the nonwoven fabric by which thermofusion was carried out in advance as a nonwoven fabric piece 12, and it can use a span bond nonwoven fabric, a point bond nonwoven fabric, a melt BURON nonwoven fabric, a through air bond nonwoven fabric, etc. In this, since the point of compression stability to a through air bond nonwoven fabric is bulky, it is the most desirable. As fiber which constitutes the nonwoven fabric piece 12, bicomponent fibers, such as a thick-andthin mold which consists of each fiber of a polyolefine system, a polyester system, and a polyamide system, polyethylene/polypropylene, or polyester, or a side-by-side mold, can be used.

[0027] moreover, the thing whose average size is 3-25mm as magnitude of the nonwoven fabric piece 12 — it is desirable. Furthermore, it carries out to 3-15mm,

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for example, 5mm, preferably. When the average size of the nonwoven fabric piece 12 is 3mm or less, compression stability may fall, and it may become the cause of getting a production line blocked in being 25mm or more, and a cause lacking in the smooth nature on the front face of a product. Here, an "average size" shows the average of the upper limit of each fiber nonwoven fabric piece, and the lower limit. Moreover, not all average sizes need to be 3–25mm, and 80% or more of a fiber nonwoven fabric piece should just be in said range. As a means to grind a nonwoven fabric in order to fabricate the nonwoven fabric piece 12, a cutter mill method etc. is employable.

[0028] As hydrophilic fiber 14, the fiber of absorptivity is desirable and can use pulp, a cotton, rayon, acetate, etc. As SAP (absorptivity polymer)16, well-known things, such as sodium polyacrylate, an acrylic-acid-vinyl alcohol copolymer, a sodium polyacrylate bridge formation object, a graft copolymer (starch-acrylic acid), a copolymer (isobutylene-maleic anhydride) and its saponification object, and the Pori aspartic acid, can be used, for example.

[0029] Although it is not necessary to not necessarily include SAP16 in an absorber 10, in case SAP16 is made to mix, it is possible to blend five to 95% of the weight for example. Moreover, as a rate of a compounding ratio of the nonwoven fabric piece 12 and hydrophilic fiber 14, it is desirable to be referred to as 2:8-8:2 by the weight ratio. When the rate of a compounding ratio is 2:8 or less, compression stability may fall and absorptivity ability may fall. Moreover, when the rate of a compounding ratio is 8:2 or more, since there is little hydrophilic fiber, absorptivity may fall. [0030] As for the nonwoven fabric piece 12, it is desirable to blend 20 to 80% of the weight according to a use. For example, many absorbed amounts, such as a panties liner, are not needed, but in using it for the absorptivity article which thinks the touch as important, it makes the rate of the nonwoven fabric piece 12 into 60 - 80%. Moreover, it is desirable that an activity makes the rate of the nonwoven fabric piece 12 20 - 40% in few diapers for bedridden users with much urine volume. [0031] In addition, when using an absorber 10 for the absorptivity article used in the condition that a motion is comparatively intense, it is desirable to carry out heat weld of the nonwoven fabric piece 12 comrades. On the occasion of manufacture of such an absorber 10, the nonwoven fabric which has the three-dimensional structure which combined fiber beforehand is prepared. And the nonwoven fabric is ground, the nonwoven fabric piece 12 is fabricated, and it mixes with hydrophilic fiber 14 and SAP. Then, fused junction of the nonwoven fabric piece 12 comrades is carried out by heat welding. For this reason, compared with the former, welding of nonwoven fabric piece 12 comrades can be performed by small quantity of heat, and productivity improves. Moreover, in the phase before performing welding of nonwoven fabric piece 12 comrades, since each nonwoven fabric piece 12 already has the three-dimensional structure, it can carry out welding of the nonwoven fabric piece 12 comrades certainly, and its gestalt stability of absorber 10 the very thing improves.

[0032] Drawing 2 shows the disposable diaper of an open type as an example of the absorptivity article 20 using the absorber 10 mentioned above. The absorptivity article 20 is equipped with the liquid permeability surface sheet 22 and the rear–face sheet 24 of non–liquid permeability. Moreover, as shown in drawing 3, permeable tissue paper 26 is arranged between the surface sheet 22 and an absorber 10 and between the rear–face sheet 24 and the absorber 10. In addition, the surface sheet 22, the permeable tissue paper 26 which counters and the rear–face sheet 24, and the tissue paper 26 that counters are joined with hot melt adhesive etc., respectively. Furthermore, the up–and–down tissue paper 26 and the up–and–down absorber which counter an absorber may be joined with hot melt adhesive etc. As for the coating pattern of hot melt adhesive, open patterns, such as the shape of the shape of a line and a dot and a spiral, a wave, and a grid, are chosen. Moreover, as the cementation method, you may join directly with heat sealing, a sonic seal, etc.

[0033] The film which performed the nonwoven fabric formed for hydrophilic fiber and puncturing processing as a surface sheet 22 can be used. Absorptivity fiber, such as what carried out hydrophilic processing of the thermoplastic fiber, such as bicomponent fibers, such as a thick—and—thin mold which consists of each fiber of a polyolefine system, a polyester system, and a polyamide system, polyethylene/polypropylene, or polyester, or a side—by—side mold, as hydrophilic fiber, and pulp, rayon, acetate, a cotton, etc. can be used. As a puncturing film, it is desirable to use polyolefine system films, such as polyethylene and polypropylene. [0034] Films, such as polyethylene, polypropylene, polyester, and polyurethane, can be used as a rear—face sheet 24. When using an absorber 10 for wear articles, such as a disposable diaper, and a pad, a sanitary napkin, it is desirable to have moisture permeability.

[0035] Even when external force works and an absorber 10 deforms, the above absorptivity articles 20 of a configuration will return to the original configuration, if an operation of external force is lost. The flattery nature which similarly was easy to fit in accordance with the configuration of the body, and was excellent also to the motion of the body is shown. Furthermore, the outstanding absorptivity ability is demonstrated by the blended pulp fiber 14 or SAP16.

[0036] As mentioned above, although the gestalt of operation of this invention was explained, it cannot be overemphasized that a design change is possible for this invention suitably within the limits of the technical thought which is not limited to this and shown in the claim.

[0037]

[Effect of the Invention] As mentioned above, since a nonwoven fabric piece has the three-dimensional structure beforehand according to the absorber used for the absorptivity article and this concerning this invention as explained to details, it is effective in an opening being formed in the interior of an absorber, and the stability when absorbing moisture improving, consequently absorptivity ability improving.

[0038] Moreover, since according to the manufacture method of the absorber for absorptivity articles concerning this invention heat weld of the nonwoven fabric pieces is carried out after preparing the nonwoven fabric piece which has the three-dimensional structure beforehand and mixing the nonwoven fabric piece concerned and the fiber of hydrophilicity, compared with the former, welding of nonwoven fabric pieces can be performed by small quantity of heat, and productivity improves. Moreover, at the event before the welding of nonwoven fabric pieces, since each nonwoven fabric piece already has the three-dimensional structure, it can carry out welding of the nonwoven fabric pieces certainly, and its gestalt stability of the absorber itself improves.

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DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] Drawing 1 is the expanded sectional view showing typically the structure of the absorber for absorptivity articles concerning the example of this invention. [Drawing 2] Drawing 2 is the perspective diagram (part cross section) showing the configuration of the absorptivity article which used the absorber shown in drawing 1 [Drawing 3] Drawing 3 is the cross section of the direction of A-A in drawing 2 . [Description of Notations]

- 10 Absorber
- 12 Nonwoven Fabric Piece
- 14 Pulp Fiber
- 16 SAP (High Absorption Polymer)
- 20 Absorptivity Article (Disposable Diaper)
- 22 Surface Sheet
- 24 Rear-Face Sheet

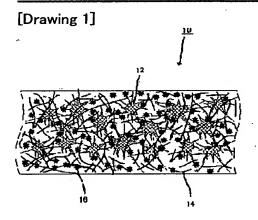
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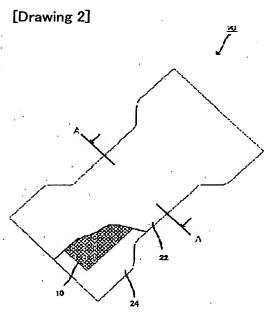
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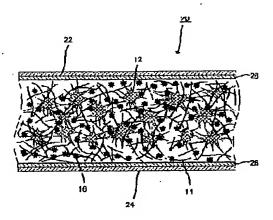
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DRAWINGS





[Drawing 3]



[Translation done.]

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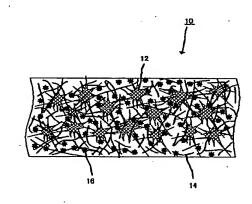
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(54) 【発明の名称】 吸収性物品、吸収性物品用吸収体及びその製造方法

(57)【要約】

【課題】 圧縮復元性の向上により吸収性能に優れ、且 つ形態安定性に優れた吸収性物品用吸収体を提供すること。

【解決手段】 本発明の吸収性物品用吸収体は、熱融着 繊維を含み、予め繊維間を結合させて三次元構造を付与 した不識布片と;親水性の繊維とを備える。そして、前 記不織布片と前記親水性の繊維とを混合することによっ て成形される。



【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】熱融着繊維を含み、予め繊維間を結合させて三次元構造を付与した不織布片と:親水性の繊維とを備え、

前記不総布片と前記親水性の繊維とを混合することによって成形されることを特徴とする吸収性物品用吸収体。 【請求項2】前記不総布片と前記親水性の繊維とを混合した後に、前記不織布片同士を熱融着することを特徴とする請求項1に記載の吸収性物品用吸収体。

【請求項3】前記不織布片が熱融着性繊維から構成され 10 ることを特徴とする請求項1又は2に記載の吸収性物品 用吸収体。

【請求項4】前記親水性の繊維が、水分吸収性の高い吸収性繊維であることを特徴とする請求項1,2又は3に記載の吸収性物品用吸収体。

【請求項5】5~95重量%の高吸収性ポリマー粒子を 更に含み:前記不織布片と前記親水性の繊維との混合重 量比が2:8~8:2であることを特徴とする請求項 1,2,3又は4に記載の吸収性物品用吸収体。

【請求項6】前記不織布片の平均寸法が、3~25mm 20 であることを特徴とする請求項1,2,3,4又は5 に記載の吸収性物品用吸収体。

【請求項7】前記平均寸法が、5~15mmであることを特徴とする請求項6に記載の吸収性物品用吸収体。

【請求項8】透液性の表面シートと;不透液性の裏面シートと;前記表面シートと裏面シートとの間に配置された吸収体とを備えた吸収性物品であり、

前記吸収体は、熱融着繊維を含み、予め繊維間を結合させて三次元構造を付与した不織布片と:親水性の繊維とを備え;前記不織布片と前記親水性の繊維とを混合する 30 ことによって成形されることを特徴とする吸収性物品。

【請求項9】前記不織布片と前記親水性の繊維とを混合した後に、前記不織布片同士を熱融着することを特徴とする請求項8に記載の吸収性物品。

【請求項10】前記不織布片が熱融着性繊維から構成されることを特徴とする請求項8又は9に記載の吸収性物品。

【請求項11】前記親水性の繊維が、水分吸収性の高い吸収性繊維であるととを特徴とする請求項8,9又は10に記載の吸収性物品。

【請求項12】前記吸収体が、5~95重量%の高吸収性ポリマー粒子を更に含み;前記不織布片と前記親水性の繊維との混合重量比が2:8~8:2であることを特徴とする請求項8,9,10又は11に記載の吸収性物品。

【請求項13】前記不織布片の平均寸法が、3~25mmであるととを特徴とする請求項8,9,10,11又は12に記載の吸収性物品。

【請求項14】前記平均寸法が、5~15mmであるととを特徴とする請求項13に記載の吸収性物品。

【請求項15】予め繊維同士を結合させた三次元構造を有する不織布を成形する工程と;前記不織布を粉砕して不織布片を成形する工程と;前記不織布片を親水性繊維と混合する工程と;熱融着により、前記不織布片同士を溶融接合する工程とを含むことを特徴とする吸収性物品用吸収体の製造方法。

【請求項16】前記吸収体が、5~95重量%の高吸収性ポリマー粒子を更に含み;前記不織布片と前記親水性の繊維との混合重量比を2:8~8:2としたことを特徴とする請求項15に記載の方法。

【請求項17】前記不織布片の平均寸法が、3~25mmとすることを特徴とする請求項15又は16に記載の方法

【請求項18】前記平均寸法が、5~15mmであることを特徴とする請求項17に記載の方法。

【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は、使い捨ておむつ、 おむつ用バッド、生理用ナブキン、ペットシート等の吸 収性物品に関する。更に詳しくは、上記吸収性物品に使 用される吸収体及びその製造方法に関する。

[0002]

【従来の技術】通常、吸収性物品は液透過性の表面シートと液不透過性の裏面シートと、両シート間に介在する吸収体とで構成される。吸収体は、パルブ等の吸収性繊維と粒状の吸収性ポリマーとで構成される場合が多い。吸収性物品に使用される吸収体においては、吸収体の圧縮復元性(吸収性)の向上及びの形態安定性の向上が大きな課題である。

【0003】特開平2-74254号公報において、10~70重量%の熱溶融捲縮繊維と10~70重量%の 綿状パルプと、5~50重量%の吸水性ポリマー粒子と を用いた吸収体が示されている。この吸収体において は、熱溶融捲縮繊維を互いに融着させて立体的網目状構 造を形成することにより、吸収体の復元性(吸収性)と 形態安定性を向上させている。

[0004]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】しかしながら、特開平2-74254号公報に記載された発明においては、熱融着繊維と綿状パルブと吸水性ポリマー粒子とで形成される三次元骨格の密度が高いため、吸水性ポリマー粒子が体液を吸収した際にポリマー粒子が膨潤するという吸収体における基本的な作用を阻害する要因となっていた。すなわち、不十分な圧縮復元性により、吸収性能の低下を引き起こす可能性があった。

【0005】また、熱融着捲縮繊維と綿状パルブと吸水性ポリマー粒子とを混合した後に、熱融着捲縮繊維同士を熱によって融着しているため、非熱融着繊維である綿状パルプと吸収性ポリマー粒子とが阻害要因となっていた。すなわち、非熱融着繊維である綿状パルプと吸収性

10

ポリマー粒子を混合した状態で熱融着捲縮繊維同士の融 着するには、大きな熱量が必要となる。ここで、加工速 度を向上させるために、単純に処理温度を高く設定した 場合には、吸収体の表面しか融着せず、吸収体の中まで 融着するさせることができない。その結果、水分を吸収 したときに吸収性物品として形が崩れ、十分な形態安定 性を付与することができない。一方、加熱速度を遅くし た場合においても内部まで十分に加熱することは困難で あると同時に、生産性が著しく低下するという問題があ

【0006】本発明は上記のような状況に鑑みて成され たものであり、圧縮復元性の向上により吸収性能に優 れ、且つ形態安定性に優れた吸収性物品用吸収体を提供 することを第1の目的とする。

【0007】また、吸収性能及び形態安定性に優れた吸 収性物品を提供することを第2の目的とする。

【0008】更に、吸収性能及び形態安定性に優れた吸 収性物品用吸収体を容易に製造可能な方法を提供すると とを第3の目的とする。

[0009]

【課題を解決するための手段】上記目的を達成するため に、本発明の第1の態様である請求項1に記載の吸収性 物品用吸収体は、熱融着繊維を含み、予め繊維間を結合 させて三次元構造を付与した不織布片と:親水性の繊維 とを備える。そして、前記不織布片と前記親水性の繊維 とを混合することによって成形される。上記のような請 求項1に記載の吸収体においては、不織布片が予め三次 元構造を有するため、吸収体内部に空隙が形成され、水 分を吸収した時の復元性が向上し、その結果、吸水性能 が向上する。

【0010】請求項2に記載の発明においては、前記不 織布片と前記親水性の繊維とを混合した後に、前記不織 布片同士を熱融着する。不織布片は既に三次元構造を有 するため、従来に比べて少ない熱量で不織布片同士の融 着を行うことができ、生産性が向上する。また、不織布 片同士の融着の前に各不織布片は既に三次元構造を有す るため、確実に不織布片同士を融着させることができ、 吸収体自体の形態安定性が向上する。すなわち、水分を 吸収した場合にも、内部がバラバラにならず、元の形状 を維持することが可能となる。

【0011】請求項3に記載の発明においては、前記不・ 織布片が熱融着性繊維から構成される。これにより、不 織布片同士を更に容易に結合させることが可能となる。

【0012】請求項4に記載の発明においては、前記親 水性の繊維として、水分吸収性の高い吸収性繊維を使用 する。これにより、吸収体自体の吸収性能が更に向上す

【0013】請求項5に記載の発明に係る吸収体は、5 ~95重量%の髙吸収性ポリマー粒子を更に含む。そし て、前記不織布片と前記親水性の繊維との混合重量比を 50 てとにより、吸収性能が更に向上する。また、前記不織

2:8~8:2とする。高吸収性ポリマーを配合すると とにより、吸収体としての吸収性能が更に向上する。ま た、前記不織布片と前記親水性の繊維との混合重量比を 2:8~8:2とすることにより、パランスの良い吸収 性を得ることができる。すなわち、繊維不総布片と親水 性繊維との配合比率が2:8以下の場合には、圧縮復元 性が低下し、吸収性能が低下する可能性がある。また配 合比率が8:2以上の場合には、親水性繊維が少ないた め吸収性が低下する可能性がある。

【0014】請求項6に記載の発明に係る吸収体は、前 記不織布片の平均寸法を3~25mmとする。更に好ま しくは、5~15mmとする。これにより、製品の平滑 性を保つことができ、製造ラインの詰まりを防止すると とが可能となる。

【0015】本発明の第2の態様である請求項8に記載 の吸収性物品は、透液性の表面シートと;不透液性の裏 面シートと;前記表面シートと裏面シートとの間に配置 された吸収体とを備えた吸収性物品である。そして、前 記吸収体として、熱融着繊維を含み、予め繊維間を結合 させて三次元構造を付与した不織布片と; 親水性の繊維 とを備え;前記不織布片と前記親水性の繊維とを混合す ることによって成形したものを使用する。上記のような 請求項8に記載の吸収性物品においては、吸収体に含ま れる不織布片が予め三次元構造を有するため、吸収体内 部に空隙が形成され、水分を吸収した時の復元性が向上 し、その結果、吸収性物品としての吸水性能が向上す

【0016】請求項9に記載の発明においては、前記不 織布片と前記親水性の繊維とを混合した後に、前記不織 布片同士を熱融着する。不織布片は既に三次元構造を有 30 するため、従来に比べて少ない熱量で不織布片同士の融 着を行うことができ、生産性が向上する。また、不織布 片同士の融着の前に各不織布片は既に三次元構造を有す るため、確実に不織布片同士を融着させることができ、 吸収体を内蔵する吸収性物品の形態安定性が向上する。 すなわち、水分を吸収した場合にも、内部がバラバラに なったり破断したりすることなく、元の形状を維持する ことが可能となる。

【0017】請求項10に記載の発明においては、不繼 40 布片が熱融着性繊維から構成される。これにより、不織 布片同士を更に容易に結合させることが可能となる。

【0018】請求項11に記載の発明においては、前記 親水性の繊維として、水分吸収性の高い吸収性繊維を使 用する。これにより、吸収性物品の吸収性能が更に向上

【0019】請求項12に記載の発明に係る吸収体は、 5~95重量%の高吸収性ポリマー粒子を更に含む。そ して、前記不織布片と前記親水性の繊維との混合重量比 を2:8~8:2とする。高吸収性ポリマーを配合する

布片と前記親水性の繊維との混合重量比を2:8~8: 2とすることにより、バランスの良い吸収性を得ることができる。すなわち、繊維不織布片と親水性繊維との配合比率が2:8以下の場合には、圧縮復元性が低下し、吸収性能が低下する可能性がある。また配合比率が8: 2以上の場合には、親水性繊維が少ないため吸収性が低下する可能性がある。

【0020】請求項13に記載の発明に係る吸収体は、前記不織布片の平均寸法を3~25mmとする。更に好ましくは、5~15mmとする。これにより、製品の平 10 滑性を保つことができ、製造ラインの詰まりを防止することが可能となる。

【0021】本発明の第3の態様である請求項15に記載の吸収性物品用吸収体の製造方法においては、予め繊維同士を結合させた三次元構造を有する不織布を成形し;前記不織布を粉砕して不織布片を成形し;前記不織布片を親水性繊維と混合し;その後、熱融着により、前記不織布片同士を溶融接合する。上記のような請求項15に記載の吸収体においては、予め三次元構造を有する不織布片を用意し、当該不織布片と親水性の繊維とを混20合した後に、不織布片同士を熱融着しているため、従来に比べて少ない熱量で不織布片同士の融着を行うことができ、生産性が向上する。また、不織布片同士の融着を行う前の段階で、各不織布片は既に三次元構造を有するため、確実に不織布片同士を融着させることができ、吸収体自体の形態安定性が向上する。

【0022】請求項16に記載の発明に係る方法においては、前記吸収体が、5~95重量%の高吸収性ポリマー粒子を更に含み:前記不織布片と前記親水性の繊維との混合重量比を2:8~8:2としている。高吸収性ポ 30 リマーを配合することにより、吸収性能が更に向上する。また、前記不織布片と前記親水性の繊維との混合重量比を2:8~8:2とすることにより、バランスの良い吸収性を得ることができる。すなわち、繊維不織布片と親水性繊維との配合比率が2:8以下の場合には、圧縮復元性が低下し、吸収性能が低下する可能性がある。また配合比率が8:2以上の場合には、親水性繊維が少ないため吸収性が低下する可能性がある。

【0023】請求項17に記載の発明に係る吸収体は、前記不織布片の平均寸法を3~25mmとする。更に好 40 ましくは、5~15mmとする。これにより、製品の平滑性を保つことができ、製造ラインの詰まりを防止することが可能となる。

[0024]

【発明の実施の形態】以下、本発明の実施の形態について、実施例を用いて説明する。なお、本発明に係る吸収体は、使い捨ておむつ、おむつ用パッド、生理用ナプキン、ペットシート等の種々の吸収性物品に適用可能である。

【0025】図1は、本発明の実施例に係る吸収性物品

用吸収体10の構造を示す。吸収体10は、予め繊維間 を結合させた3次元(立体)構造を有する不総布片12 と、親水性繊維14と、SAP(吸収性ポリマー)16 とによってシート状に成形されている。不総布片12 は、主に吸収体10の形態安定性向上に寄与する。ま た、親水性繊維14とSAP16は、主に液体の吸収性 能向上に寄与する。ととで、3次元構造の不総布片12 は、不織布を細片状に粉砕することによって得られる。 【0026】不織布片12としては、事前に熱溶融され た不織布を使用するのが好ましく、スパンポンド不織布 やポイントボンド不織布、メルトブローン不織布、スル ーエアーポンド不織布等を使用することができる。この 中で、圧縮復元性の点からスルーエアーボンド不識布が 嵩高であるため、最も好ましい。不織布片12を構成す る繊維としては、ポリオレフィン系、ポリエステル系、 ポリアミド系の各繊維、ポリエチレン/ポリプロピレン またはポリエステルからなるシックアンドシン型または サイドバイサイド型等の複合繊維を使用することができ .る。

【0027】また、不織布片12の大きさとしては、平均寸法が3~25mmのもの好ましい。更に好ましくは、3~15mm、例えば、5mmとする。不織布片12の平均寸法が3mm以下の場合には圧縮復元性が低下し、25mm以上の場合には製造ラインのつまりの原因や、製品表面の平滑性を欠く原因となることがある。ここで、「平均寸法」とは、個々の繊維不織布片の最大寸法と最小寸法との平均値を示す。また平均寸法はすべて3~25mmである必要はなく、繊維不織布片の80%以上が前記範囲にあればよい。不織布片12を成形するために不織布を粉砕する手段としては、カッターミル方式などを採用することができる。

【0028】親水性繊維14としては、吸収性の繊維が好ましく、パルブ、コットン、レーヨン、アセテート等を使用することができる。SAP(吸収性ポリマー)16としては、例えば、ポリアクリル酸ナトリウム、アクリル酸ーピニルアルコール)共重合体、ポリアクリル酸ナトリウム架橋体、(デンブンーアクリル酸)グラフト共重合体、(イソブチレンー無水マレイン酸)共重合体及びそのケン化物、ポリアスパラギン酸等、公知のものを使用することができる。

【0029】必ずしもSAP16を吸収体10に含ませる必要はないが、SAP16を混入させる際には、例えば、5~95重量%配合することが可能である。また、不総布片12と親水性繊維14との配合比率としては、重量比で2:8~8:2とすることが好ましい。配合比率が2:8以下の場合には、圧縮復元性が低下し、吸収性能が低下する可能性がある。また配合比率が8:2以上の場合には、親水性繊維が少ないため吸収性が低下する可能性がある。

50 【0030】不織布片12は用途に応じて、20~80

(5)

重量%配合することが好ましい。例えば、バンティライナーなど、多くの吸収量を必要とせず、肌触りを重視する吸収性物品に使用する場合には、不織布片12の割合を60~80%とする。また、活動が少なく尿量の多い寝たきりの使用者用のオムツにおいては、不織布片12の割合を20~40%とすることが好ましい。

【0031】なお、吸収体10を比較的動きの激しい状況で使用される吸収性物品に使用する場合には、不織布片12同士を熱融着することが好ましい。このような吸収体10の製造に際しては、予め繊維同士を結合させた 10 三次元構造を有する不織布を用意しておく。そして、その不織布を粉砕して不織布片12を成形し、親水性繊維14及びSAPと混合する。その後、熱融着により、不織布片12同士を溶融接合する。このため、従来に比べて少ない熱量で不織布片12同士の融着を行うことができ、生産性が向上する。また、不織布片12同士の融着を行う前の段階で、各不織布片12同士を融着させることができ、吸収体10自体の形態安定性が向上する。

【0032】図2は、上述した吸収体10を用いた吸収 20 性物品20の例として、オープン型の使い捨てオムツを 示す。吸収性物品20は、透液性の表面シート22と、 不透液性の裏面シート24とを備えている。また、図3 に示すように、表面シート22と吸収体10との間、及 び裏面シート24と吸収体10との間には、透水性のテ ィッシュペーパー26が配置されている。なお、表面シ ート22と対向する透水性のティッシュペーパー26、 裏面シート24と対向するティッシュペーパー26とは それぞれホットメルト接着剤等で接合されている。さら に、吸収体に対向する上下のティッシュペーパー26と 吸収体とはホットメルト接着剤等で接合してもよい。ホ ットメルト接着剤の塗工パターンは線状、ドット状、ス パイラル状、波状、格子状等の開放パターンが選択され る。また、接合方法としてはヒートシール、ソニックシ ール等で直接接合してもよい。

【0033】表面シート22としては、親水性繊維で形成される不織布や開孔処理を施したフィルム等を使用することができる。親水性繊維としては、ポリオレフィン系、ポリエステル系、ポリアミド系の各繊維、ポリエチレン/ポリプロピレン、又はポリエステルからなるショ 40 クアンドシン型またはサイドバイサイド型等の複合繊維等の熱可塑性繊維を親水処理したものや、パルブ、レーヨン、アセテート、コットン等の吸水性繊維等を使用することができる。開孔フィルムとしては、ポリエチレンやポリプロピレン等のポリオレフィン系フィルムを使用することが好ましい。

【0034】裏面シート24としては、ポリエチレン、ポリプロピレン、ポリエステル、ポリウレタン等のフィルムを使用することができる。吸収体10を使い捨ておむつやバッド、生理用ナブキン等の着用物品に使用する場合には、透湿性を有することが好ましい。

【0035】上記のような構成の吸収性物品20は、外力が働いて吸収体10が変形した場合でも、外力の作用が無くなると元の形状に戻る。同様に、身体の形状に沿ってフィットしやすく、また、身体の動きに対しても優れた追従性を示す。更に、ブレンドされたパルブ繊維14やSAP16により、優れた吸収性能を発揮する。

【0036】以上、本発明の実施の形態について説明したが、本発明はこれに限定されるものではなく、特許請求の範囲に示された技術的思想の範囲内で適宜設計変更可能であることは言うまでもない。

[0037]

【発明の効果】以上、詳細に説明したように、本発明に係る吸収性物品及びこれに用いる吸収体によれば、不織布片が予め三次元構造を有するため、吸収体内部に空隙が形成され、水分を吸収した時の復元性が向上し、その結果、吸水性能が向上するという効果がある。

【0038】また、本発明に係る吸収性物品用吸収体の製造方法によれば、予め三次元構造を有する不織布片を用意し、当該不織布片と親水性の繊維とを混合した後に、不織布片同士を熱融着しているため、従来に比べて少ない熱量で不織布片同士の融着を行うことができ、生産性が向上する。また、不織布片同士の融着の前の時点で、各不織布片は既に三次元構造を有するため、確実に不織布片同士を融着させることができ、吸収体自体の形態安定性が向上する。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】図1は、本発明の実施例に係る吸収性物品用吸収体の構造を模式的に示す拡大断面図である。

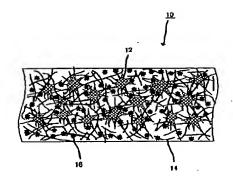
【図2】図2は、図1に示す吸収体を使用した吸収性物品の構成を示す斜視図(一部断面)である。

【図3】図3は、図2におけるA-A方向の断面図である

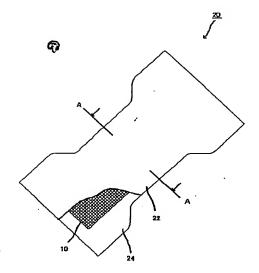
【符号の説明】

- 10 吸収体
- 0 12 不織布片
 - 14 バルブ繊維
 - 16 SAP (高吸収ポリマー)
 - 20 吸収性物品(使い捨ておむつ)
 - 22 表面シート
 - 24 裏面シート

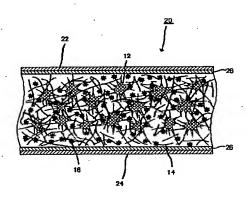
【図1】



【図2】



[図3]



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